



Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area



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RMP News

NCA Draft RMP/EIS Now Available

Dear Reader:

I am pleased to announce that on June 2, 2006 the **Notice of Availability** of the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA) was published in the *Federal Register*. The publication of the **Notice** signaled the beginning of the 90-day public comment period on the Draft RMP/EIS. We look forward to discussing our management proposals and analysis with you prior to the close of the **comment period on Thursday, August 31, 2006.**

By now, you should have received a printed or CD copy of the Draft RMP/EIS, or a postcard announcing that the document is available on the BLM planning web site at:

www.id.blm.gov/planning/srbp/draft.

If you did not receive a copy and need one, CDs and a limited number of printed copies are still available. **Please note that the printed and electronic versions show incorrect dates; the comment period officially starts on June 2, not May 19 and closes on August 31, not August 17, 2006.**

We will be holding four community meetings later this month. These meetings are intended to answer questions about what you will see in

the Draft. A schedule for the community meetings is located inside this newsletter.

Also, we have received a request to conduct a field tour of the NCA, and have set aside Saturday, July 15 for that purpose. Obviously, it's not possible to cover the entire NCA in one day, however, we will make several stops to look at existing resource conditions and discuss the management activities proposed in the recently released Draft RMP/EIS.

We feel fortunate that so many of you have demonstrated such interest and commitment during this collaborative process. We appreciate the time and efforts you have put into helping us develop this Draft RMP/EIS.

I look forward to your comments on the Draft, and hopefully, I'll see you at one of the community meetings.

Mike O'Donnell
Planning Team Lead

HIGHLIGHTS

Community Meetings

Schedule and Process...

Tour of the NCA...

Bruneau Update...

Formal Comment Period...

Community Meetings



Schedule and Process ...

BLM Staff continue to be available to meet with individuals or groups to discuss the Draft RMP/EIS prior to the close of the formal comment period of August 31, 2006. Please call Mike O'Donnell at 384-3315 to schedule a meeting.

Purpose of Community Meetings:

To answer questions about management proposals and analysis that may be helpful to those submitting formal written comments by the close of the comment period on August 31, 2006. We will also discuss the next steps in the process.

Community Meeting Process:

Community meetings will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. with a formal overview of the key features of the Draft RMP/EIS by John Sullivan, NCA Manager. Following the presentation, and a general question and answer period, BLM resource specialists will be available for individual conversations about the analysis and plan. We will provide information on how and where you should submit your comments and identify future collaborative opportunities.

Community Meeting Schedule:

Thursday - June 22, 2006

**Kuna High School Commons
637 E Deerflat Rd.
Kuna, Idaho**

Tuesday - June 27, 2006

**Rimrock Jr/Sr High School Cafeteria
Highway 78
Bruneau, Idaho**

Wednesday - June 28, 2006

**Mountain Home Public Library
790 N 10 East
Mountain Home, Idaho**

Thursday, June 29, 2006

**Boise High School Cafeteria
1010 W Washington St.
Boise, Idaho**

Bruneau RMP Update: In the June 2005 RMP Newsletter, we announced that in order to give both the NCA and Bruneau plans the attention they deserve, the two plans would be split apart and would not be operating under the same time schedule. Now that the NCA Draft RMP/EIS is out, we are once again focusing our attention on the Bruneau RMP. You can expect to hear more about the Bruneau Draft RMP/EIS in the near future.

... Tour the NCA on Saturday, July 15



The purpose of the field trip is to look at existing resource conditions and discuss the management activities proposed in the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

The field trip stops will include discussions about:

- ♦ Proposed stabilization and restoration of critical shrub habitat
- ♦ Idaho Army National Guard activities within the OTA
- ♦ Impacts of current recreational uses and proposed management strategies to address them.

The tentative departure time from the Boise District Office is approximately 8:30 a.m. returning around 5:00 p.m. and you will need to bring a lunch. This schedule is subject to change based on the number of participants and their specific areas of interest. Those expressing interest will be notified of any changes. Space is limited and a second tour may be necessary.

To sign-up for this tour contact Mary Jones **by July 3** at 384-3305 or send an e-mail to ID-Birds-Of-Prey_RMP@blm.gov

Formal Comment Period for the NCA Draft RMP/EIS:

We welcome your comments by August 31, 2006 regarding the content of the Draft RMP/EIS for the NCA. We are particularly interested in specific input that addresses:

1. Questions or concerns about the analysis and alternatives
2. New information that would have a bearing on the analysis
3. Items that need clarification

When commenting please be specific by referencing chapters, sections and page numbers related to your comments.

Written comments should be sent to the Snake River Birds of Prey NCA

C/O Content Analysis Group

PO Box 200, Bountiful, UT 84011-2000

Fax 801-397-2602

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review and may be published as part of the EIS. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Electronic comments can also be sent to: srbp@contentanalysisgroup.com



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We have set up an e-mail account specifically for the RMP

ID_Birds_of_Prey_RMP@blm.gov

Check out our planning web site at: www.id.blm.gov